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California State Legislature

SENATOR
HANNAH-BETH JACKSON

NINETEENTH SENATE DISTRICT



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February 3, 2016

Hilda L. Solis, Chair
Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 383
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Los Angeles County Pharmaceuticals and Sharps Collection and Disposal Stewardship Ordinance - Support

Dear Supervisor Solis:

I am writing in support of Los Angeles County's efforts to adopt an ordinance which would require the development of Stewardship Plans to address the collection and disposal of unwanted/unused pharmaceuticals and sharps waste generated by residents. I urge the Board of Supervisors to vote to adopt the County's draft ordinance.

In 2013 and 2014, I worked with numerous stakeholders to develop statewide legislation that would have created an Extended Producer Responsibility prescription drug take-back program. During that time, I introduced two bills, SB 727 (2013) and SB 1014 (2014). Unfortunately, due to the legislative climate at the time, both bills stalled.

I am now respectfully requesting your participation and help in moving this critical effort forward in our state. The County's proposed ordinance is important because it establishes a sustainably financed program that will provide residents with a convenient means to safely dispose of unwanted sharps and pharmaceuticals in the midst of an ever increasing abuse of unwanted medicines and used needles (sharps) occurring in municipalities throughout California. Enactment of this ordinance will help prevent unwanted medicines and sharps from entering the environment, reduce their availability for drug abuse and misuse, and reduce injuries associated with sharps being improperly disposed. With the creation of safe and convenient disposal options, combined with a robust outreach and education program, residents will be educated regarding appropriate collection and disposal methods, as well as where and how to participate in proper end-of life disposal "take-back" practices.

The passage of this ordinance would ensure that manufacturers and producers of prescription and nonprescription drugs and sharps share in the responsibility of proper disposal of their products. I

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support this shared responsibility approach. The cost of managing these materials at the end of their life should no longer be borne solely by local jurisdictions.

I understand the County has conducted multiple stakeholder meetings, which included representatives from the manufacturers and producers of pharmaceuticals and sharps, retailers, pharmacies, consumer advocacy groups, environmental organizations, the waste hauling industry, and others in order to develop the most effective possible ordinance. Adoption of the proposed ordinance represents a unique and critical opportunity for Los Angeles County to take a significant step forward in protecting public health and safety.

I respectfully urge you to vote in support of this ordinance. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



HANNAH-BETH JACKSON
State Senator, 19th District

LB

Cc: County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich
Sachi A. Hamai, Chief Executive Officer
Angelo J. Bellomo, EPR Working Group